

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-10 are present in this application. Claim 1 is amended and claims 9 and 10 are added by way of the present amendment.

In the December 15, 2007 Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), claims 1, 4-6 and 8 are rejected over US 5,990,016 (Kim et al.) in view of US 5,565,036 (Westendorp et al.), US 6,089,181 (Suemasa et al.), US 5,342,471 (Fukusawa et al.) and US 5,298,466 (Brasseur), and claim 7 is rejected over Kim et al. in view of Westendorp et al., Suemasa et al., Fukusawa et al. and Brasseur and further in view of US 5,707,486 (Collins).

The Applicants again acknowledge with appreciation the interview conducted with Examiner Crowell, which was also attended by Mr. Hassanzadeh.

The structure of the processing apparatus is clarified in claim 1. The vacuum chamber has a processing region configured to be airtightly closable and a space separated from the processing region of the chamber. At least a portion of the first matching device is located in the space.

None of the prior art of record discloses or suggests a matching device where at least a portion thereof is disposed in the space, as recited in claim 1. Brasseur is relied upon for the position of the matching device. Brasseur does not suggest the apparatus of claim 1 where the space is located in the chamber and separated from the processing region. The matching network 6 of Brasseur was found to be “simply beside” the chamber or exhaust pipe and is “not located in the exhaust pipe since that would cause deterioration of the matching device.” There is no suggestion of a matching network at least a part of which is disposed in a space in a vacuum chamber separated from a processing region of the chamber. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance.

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Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2006

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a favorable decision to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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